

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A system and method for extending instant messaging applications to telephony devices using voice recording, voice streaming, voice recognition and voice synthesis comprising the steps of:
 - generating the speech synthesis of text messages;
 - voice recognition for the performance of Instant Messaging functions, such as selecting a "buddy", changing status, sending a message, listening to a message;
 - a mechanism for the recording and delivery of voice as part of an instant message that is part of an Instant Messaging system to Instant Messaging clients on electronic text messaging capable devices and telephony devices over networked systems such as the Internet, wireless networks, cellular networks, radio networks, and wireline networks.
2. A system and method as described in 1, wherein such system and method is applicable to Instant Messaging systems such as Microsoft Windows Messenger, Yahoo Messenger and AOL Messenger.
3. A system and method as described in 1, wherein such system and method further comprises:
 - (a) the conversion of graphical emotion elements (Emoticons) to emotion sounds (Emotisounds);

- (b) the conversion of Instant Messaging shorthand to their respective, phonetic equivalent;
- (c) and the translation of Instant Messaging shorthand to their respective, longhand equivalent;
- (d) the selection of voice libraries to customize the speech synthesis output;
- (e) the playing, streaming, and replaying of a voice message as a sound file on an electronic text messaging capable device or telephony device;
- (f) and the playing, streaming and replaying of a voice message as sound on an electronic text messaging capable device or telephony device.

4. A system and method as described in 2, wherein such system and method further comprises:

- (a) the use of one or more existing Instant Messenger service(s) account(s);
- (b) the use of one or more newly created Instant Messenger service(s) account(s);
- (c) and the function of action as a client to one or more existing Instant Messenger service(s).

5. A system and method as described in 1, wherein such system and method further comprises:

- (a) support of an individual Instant Messaging session as telephony device to electronic text messaging device and as telephony device to telephony device;

(b) and multiple, simultaneous Instant Messaging sessions of both telephony device to electronic text messaging device and telephony device to telephony device without limitation to number of sessions or type of sessions.